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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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JOINT STATE/AID MESSAGE

SUBJECT: SENATE INQUIRY LAO REFUGEES

REF: STATE 60695

1. FOR PREPARATION OF KENNEDY SUB-COMMITTEE HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 6, AND FOR SUPPORTING WITNESS, DEPARTMENT AND AID/W WISH TO BRING IN ON TDY A PERSON THOROUGHLY AND CURRENTLY FAMILIAR WITH NORTHEAST LAOS AND WITH REFUGEE-PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM.

2. WE SUGGEST THAT JACK WILLIAMSON, WHO COMBINES LONG FIELD EXPERIENCE WITH SUBSTANTIAL TIME AND RESPONSIBILITY IN VIENTIANE HEADQUARTERS, WOULD BE AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE ON REALITIES OF LAOS AND REFUGEE PROGRAM. WE HOPE THAT HE COULD

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BRING WITH HIM ESSENTIALLY COMPLETE DATA ON PROGRAM OPERATIONS SINCE SUMMER 1968 AND ARRIVE WASHINGTON ABOUT MAY 1. WE INTEND THAT HE RETURN TO LAOS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO AS TO MINIMIZE ABSENCE KEY MEMBER YOUR TEAM AT TIME OF GREAT STRESS.

3. IF WILLIAMSON UNAVAILABLE FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN DAY TDY, INVITE YOUR PRIORITY SUGGESTIONS ON WHO COULD BEST PREPARE WITNESSES WITH CONCRETE DETAILS OF REFUGEE PROBLEM, AND WHO COULD MAKE EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION TO SUB-COMMITTEE ITSELF.
ROGERS

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